

# Discussion



Thesis of Mansfield Frazier’s “ In Criminal Justice, Language Matters” Thesis of Mansfield Frazier’s “ In Criminal Justice, Language Matters” Mansfield Frazier in his article “ In Criminal Justice, Language Matters” (Frazier, 2011) clearly mentions the thesis of the article and tries to support the thesis throughout with examples that relate to the thesis. The thesis is mentioned as early as the second paragraph in the article. The thesis of the article is that the language that is used by the people to address ex-prisoners makes it very difficult for them to re-enter the society and live normally. The highlight here is that the language used to address the prisoners (even by those who want to help the prisoners re-enter) is very hurtful, negative and counterproductive. The author here is trying to communicate that the use of words such as ex-cons and ex-felons to address ex-prisoners creates a negative identity and makes it very difficult for them to re-enter the society and live a normal life. His argument is that even though the difference between the words is subtle, it makes a huge difference to their image and reputation. He also understands that the use of these words is not deliberate and is unintentional. But nonetheless, they don’t serve the purpose of making the transition from a prison life to a normal life easier. Hence, he puts forward that there must be a conscious effort in the use of language while addressing the ex-prisoners (accepted term is formerly incarcerated persons”. The essay sticks to the topic throughout in terms of supporting the thesis. The author gives relevant examples which make it easier for the reader to understand and believe in the thesis of the essay. At the end of the essay, the reader will buy the idea and reasoning behind the argument.

References Frazier, M. (2011). In Criminal Justice, Language Matters.[Online].

Available at: <http://www.thecrimereport.org/archive/in-criminal-justice-language-matters> on January 04, 2011. Accessed on July 04, 2011.